FIJI NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

MBBS students donate to St Giles Hospital

Nineteen students from the Fiji National University's (FNU) College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences (CMNHS) Year 4 Bachelor of Medicine & Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) programme have undertaken a unique initiative to donate 200 bath towels to the patients at the St Giles Hospital in Suva today.

Student rep Ayesha Dean said this was the least they could do as students to give back to the community.

"We decided to do this because we were finishing our assessment blocks here and we wanted to show our appreciation to the patients for their cooperation during our time at the hospital," she said.

According to Dean, the CMNHS has provided them a solid foundation not only to learn but also pick up useful life skills.

Course Coordinator, Dr Sefanaia Qaloewai shares a light moment during the donation of towels by MBBS students

Year 4 Bachelor of Medicine & Bachelor of Surgery Block 1 students with sponsors of their towel donation at St Giles Hospital in Suva.

"From day one of our course, we have had multiple lectures on ethics and on treating our patients with care and compassion. The College has taught us to treat the patients as people and it has made us all very enthusiastic about helping them," Dean highlighted.

She said all the students were very excited about this donation and even their families had contributed towards purchasing of towels for the donations.

Meanwhile, the course coordinator, Dr Sefanaia Qaloewai, said the patients had been instrumental in the student's clinical learning in psychiatry.

"Students (19 in psychiatry block 1) commit to six weeks of hospital attachment at St. Giles hospital where they interact with patients, practice their psychiatry clinical skills that should complement classroom theory learning," Dr Qaloewai said.

"Organisation of this exercise was done entirely by the students which promote the learning and achievement of the University graduate attributes of being compassionate, a team player and a good leader."

"This exercise will also provide a platform for students to become socially aware and responsible with the various needs arising from their health settings or community, and learn how to network with the relevant stakeholders to find common solutions."

Dr Qaloewai added that this exercise was highly important and patients would now be able to use proper comfortable towels.

The Head of School of Medical Sciences, Dr Odille Chang, applauded the students for their generous initiative.

"The College is supportive of such initiatives which is a way for students to give back to the communities they serve and to foster social responsibility.

We want our students to become not only good doctors but also good citizens and have a sense of community commitment," Dr Chang said.